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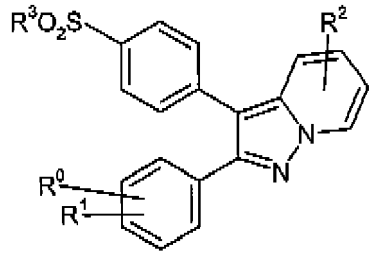
In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide ~~derivative~~ thereof wherein

R^0 and R^1 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, and C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}hydroxyalkyl, SC_{1-6}alkyl, C(O)H, $C(O)C_{1-6}$alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl, and C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and

R^3 is C_{1-6}alkyl or NH_2.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^0 and R^1 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{1-6}alkoxy; R^2 is C_{1-3}alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R^3 is C_{1-3}alkyl or NH_2.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^0 and R^1 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, F, Cl, C_{1-3}alkyl, and C_{1-3}alkoxy; R^2 is C_{1-3}alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R^3 is methyl or NH_2.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^0 is selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, C_{1-3}alkyl and C_{1-3}alkoxy; R^1 is H; R^2 is C_{1-3}alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R^3 is methyl or NH_2.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^0 is at the 3- or 4- position of the phenyl ring; and R^2 is at the 6- position of the pyridine ring.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

4-[2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-[2-(4-ethoxy-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-(2-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl)-benzenesulfonamide;

3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-2-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-[2-(4-methyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide ~~derivative~~ thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

N-acetyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-acetyl-4-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-acetyl-4-[2-phenyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

sodium salt of N-acetyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-(2-methoxyacetyl)benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-propionylbenzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-isobutyrylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-benzoyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

methyl 4-[({4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonyl)amino]-4-oxobutanoate;

4-[({4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonyl)amino]-4-oxobutanoic acid;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-pentanoylbenzenesulfonamide;

2-[({4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl acetate;

N-acetyl-4-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-(2-chloroacetyl)-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-[2-(diethylamino)acetyl]-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

methyl {4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonylcarbamate; and

tert-butyl {4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonylcarbamate.

8. (Currently Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

4-[6-chloro-2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

6-chloro-2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-[6-methyl-2-phenyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

6-methyl-2-phenyl -3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

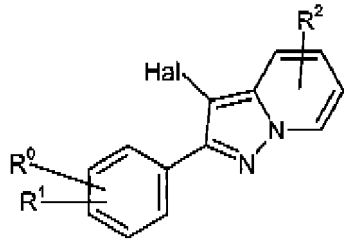
2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide ~~derivative~~ thereof.

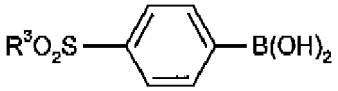
9. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) reacting a compound of formula (II)



(II)

or a protected derivative thereof, with a compound of formula (III)



(III)

or a protected derivative thereof to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide ~~derivative~~ thereof.

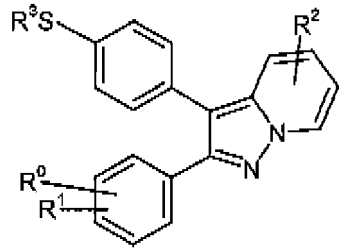
10. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1 in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

11.-16. Canceled.

17. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^0 is selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, methyl and ethoxy; R^1 is H; R^2 is trifluoromethyl; and R^3 is methyl or NH_2.

18. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R^3 represents C_{1-4}alkyl, reacting a compound of formula (IV)



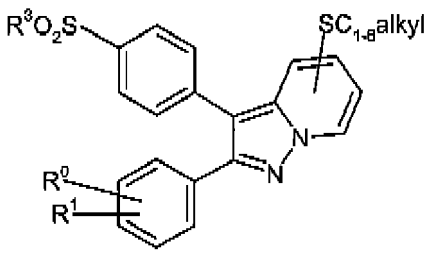
(IV)

or a protected derivative thereof with an oxidising agent to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide ~~derivative~~ thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R^2 is C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl, oxidising a compound of formula (V)



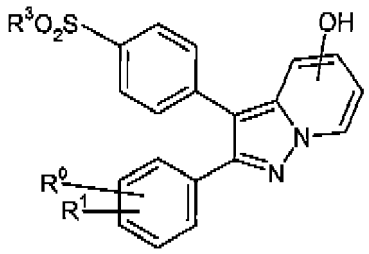
(V)

or a protected derivative thereof to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide ~~derivative~~ thereof.

20. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R^2 is C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, reacting a alcohol of formula (VI)



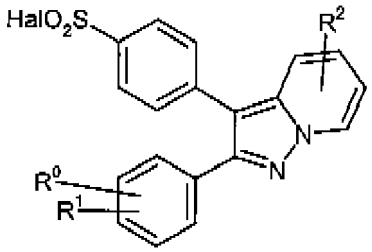
(VI)

or a protected derivative thereof with a halofluoroalkane to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide ~~derivative~~ thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R^3 is NH_2, reacting a compound of formula (X)



(X)

with a source of ammonia under conventional conditions to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide ~~derivative~~ thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) interconverting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide ~~derivative~~ thereof.

23. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide ~~derivative~~ thereof.

24. Canceled.

25. Canceled.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for the ~~prophylaxis or~~ treatment of a human subject suffering from a condition or disease selected from the group consisting of pain, fever and inflammation, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

27. Canceled.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for the ~~prophylaxis or~~ treatment of a human subject suffering from pain, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for the ~~prophylaxis or~~ treatment of a human subject suffering from arthritis, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

30. – 34. Canceled.

35. (Previously Presented) 4-[2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide.

36. (New) A method for the treatment of a human subject suffering from lower back pain, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

37. (New) A method for the treatment of a human subject suffering from neck pain, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

38. (New) A method for the treatment of a human subject suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

39. (New) A method for the treatment of a human subject suffering from osteoarthritis, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

40. (New) A method for the treatment of a human subject suffering from dysmenorrhoea, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.